safeguarding against inherent perils in using biotechnology in the field of health care, agriculture, industry, etc.; and

(c) the names of organisers and sponsors of this Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An International Conference on Biotechnology on the Fast Track: Realising Regulatory Reform was organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on July 17-19, 2001 at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi, in partnership with the Government of NCT of Delhi, and sponsored by some private industries. At the conference, a decision was taken to prepare a White Paper on regulatory procedures to be followed in the area of biotechnology.

Establishment of techno-parks in Gujarat

2257. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are establishing techno-parks in various States;

(b) if so, the details of such parks established in Gujarat;

(c) whether any fresh proposal of Gujarat is pending; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) There are no Parks called techno-parks established by the Central Government in various States. However, the National Science and Technology. Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB) under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) is promoting Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Parks (STEPs) in and around academic and R&D Institutions of excellence with a view to promoting the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship among S&ST persons. The STEPs are sponsored jointly by the DST, all India Financial Institutions (IDBI, IFCI and ICICI), State Governments and the Host Institutions. So far, 16 STEPs have been approved as on 31.7.2001.

In addition, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is promoting Micropropagation Technology Parks (MTPs) for providing an interface between the research institutions and industry and Biotechnology Parks for women to provide opportunities for women entrepreneurs through the application of environment friendly biotechnologies. DBT has set up 2 MTPs, one at Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), New Delhi and another at National Chemical Laboratory, Pune. A Biotechnology Park for women has been set up by DBT at Chennai in collaboration with the State Government.

The Ministry of Information Technology is establishing Software Technology Parks (STPs) through the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) all over the country. The main objective of the Software Technology Parks scheme is to boost the software exports from the country using high-speed data communication links. So far, 20 STPs including 19 International Gateways have been set up.

(b) The Ministry of Information Technology has established a Software Technology Park at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

(c) and (d) The Department of Biotechnology has received a proposal for the establishment of Gujarat Research Institute for Biotechnology in conjunction with Gujarat Biotechnology Park.

Grants to Tamil Nadu by Ministry of Science and Technology

2258. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount provided by the Ministry of Science and Technology to the Tamil Nadu Government during the last three years as grants-in-aid and the details of items, programmes, projects or any speical head under which the amount was sanctioned;

(b) whether the State Government has utilized these grants; and

(c) whether Government provide grants-in-aid to private Research and Development institutions also; if so, the details thereof?